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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/874,098	06/04/2001	Wei William Wu	5043P010	6034

8791 7590 05/10/2004

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EXAMINER

SAM, PHIRIN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2661

DATE MAILED: 05/10/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/874,098

Applicant(s)

WU ET AL.

Examiner

Phirin Sam

Art Unit

2661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,6,8 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,4 and 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Deschaine et al (U.S. Patent 5,901,024).

Deschaine et al discloses the invention (**claim 1**) as claimed including a method comprising:

- (a) fixing a logical identifier for a signal line at an egress interface (see Figs. 2 and 3, col. 3, lines 21-31);
- (b) mapping a first physical identifier for a first physical signal line to the logical identifier (see Fig. 3, col. 3, lines 32-37).
- (c) remapping a second physical identifier for a second physical signal line to the logical identifier responsive to a line failure on the first physical signal line (see Figs. 3 and 10, col. 3, lines 38-44, col. 4, lines 61-66).

Regarding claim 3, Deschaine et al discloses the method further comprising:
switching a signal from a second physical signal line to a physical line corresponding to the logical identifier responsive to the remapping (see Figs. 3 and 10, col. 38-44, col. 4, lines 61-66).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 5, 6, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deschaine et al (U.S. Patent 5,901,024) in view of Fan et al (U.S. Patent 6,643,269).

Regarding claims 5, 6, 8, and 9, Deschaine et al discloses an apparatus comprising:

- (a) a bus interface (see Fig. 1, element 26, col. , lines).
- (b) an ingress time slot interchange (ITSI) module (see Fig. 2, element TO TIME SLOT INTERCHANGERS, col. 3, lines 14-19).
- (c) a switch fabric coupled to the ITSI module (see Figs. 2 and 5, element 50, col. 3, lines 12-14, 60-66).).
- (d) an egress time slot interchange (ETSI) module having a plurality of inputs, each input assigned a logical identifier which remains fixed after initialization (see Fig. 2, element TO TIME SLOT INTERCHANGERS, col. 3, lines 14-19).

Deschaine et al does not disclose a translation module to translate an incoming signal identifier to one of the logical identifiers independent of a physical line on which the signal is received. However, Fan et al discloses the translation module to translate an incoming signal identifier to one of the logical identifiers independent of a physical line on which the signal is received (see Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 44-51). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the translation module teaching by Fan et al with Deschaine et al. The motivation for doing so would have been to provide to convert or translate the information from different formats or protocols. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Fan et al and Deschaine et al to obtain the invention as specified in the claims 5, 6, 8, and 9.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 2, 4, and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2, 4, and 7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Phirin Sam whose telephone number is (703) 308 - 9294. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:30AM - 4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Douglas W. Olms can be reached at (703) 305 - 4703. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872 - 9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866) 217 - 9197 (toll-free).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 6, 2004



Phirin Sam
Patent Primary Examiner